

CLAIMS:

1. A device arrangement for a network (1)
 - having a plurality of device (2) and in particular consumer electronics devices, building control devices, home entertainment electronics devices and/or network control devices, that are connected to an electronic data link (12),
 - 5 - the devices (2) each having a name memory (6) in which is stored a device name uniquely assigned to the device (2), to enable each device (2) to be uniquely actuated within the network (1),
 - having a mobile input unit (3) having an input means (7) for the input of a desired device name,
 - 10 - and having an electronic data link for communication between the input unit (3) and a device (3), which link has so short a range that, by positioning the input unit (3) in the vicinity of a device (2), this device (2) is selected among the devices (2) on the network (1),
 - it being possible for the device name stored in the name memory (6) to be selected and/or changed via the electronic data link.
 - 15
2. A device arrangement as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the devices (2) have
 - first transmission means (14) of a first type for linking with other devices (2) on the network (1)
 - 20 - and second transmission means (4) of a second type for communication with the input unit (3).
3. A device arrangement as claimed in any of the foregoing claims, characterized in that
 - 25 - the devices have transmission means of a first type for linking with other devices on the network,
 - and the input unit also has a transmission means of the first type,
 - means being provided to limit range so that communication between the input unit and a device is of a shorter range than communication between two devices.

4. A device arrangement as claimed in any of the foregoing claims, characterized in that

- the input unit (3) has a wireless transmission means (5)

5 - and the devices (2) have a corresponding wireless transmission means (14) for communicating with the input unit (3) and for transmitting the name.

5. A device arrangement as claimed in any of the foregoing claims, characterized in that

10 - the range of communication between the input unit (3) and a device (2) is less than 3 meters.

6. A device arrangement as claimed in any of the foregoing claims, characterized in that

15 - the range of communication between the input unit (3) and a device (2) can be set by the user.

7. A device arrangement as claimed in any of the foregoing claims, characterized in that

20 - the input unit (3) has a display (9) for displaying a device name read out from a device (2).

8. A device arrangement as claimed in any of the foregoing claims, characterized in that

- the input unit (3) is suitable for the input of a key for a device (2).

25

9. An electronically actuatable device (2) for use in a network arrangement as claimed in any of claims 1 - 8, having

- a name memory (6) in which is stored a device name uniquely assigned to the device (2), to enable the device (2) to be uniquely actuated within the network (1),

30 - and at least one wireless transmission means (4),

- it being possible for the device name stored in the name memory (6) to be individually selected and/or changed via the wireless transmission means (4).

10. An input unit (3) for use in a network device arrangement as claimed in any of claims 1 - 8, having

- an input means (7) for the input of a desired device name
- and a wireless transmission means (5) for transmitting the device name.

5

11. A method of actuating devices on a network, and in particular a home network having a plurality of devices (2), particularly domestic electronic devices, building control devices, home entertainment electronics devices and/or network control devices, which are connected to an electronic data link (12), the devices (2) having a name memory (6) in which
10 is stored a device name uniquely assigned to the device (2), to enable each device (2) to be uniquely actuated within the network (1), in which

- a desired device name is entered with an input means (7) belonging to a mobile input unit (3) and the input unit is brought into the vicinity of a device (2),
- and the device name that was entered is transmitted via an electronic data link from the
15 mobile input unit (3) to the device (2),
- the device name stored in the device (2) being selected and/or changed as appropriate.